

MEMO

To: Mary Jane Michael, Chair
Date: March 21, 2019
Re: ASO Reallocation for Contractual Support, Change of Intent
Amount: \$250,000
Grantee: Department of Health and Social Services
Project Title: Forensic Evaluation and Database Streamlining

REQUESTED MOTION 1:

Approve a change of intent to allow the Department of Health and Social Services to use \$100,000 of FY19 MHTAAR funds, originally approved for the ASO Reallocation for Contractual Support, for Database Streamlining.

REQUESTED MOTION 2:

Approve a change of intent to allow the Department of Health and Social Services to use \$150,000 of FY19 MHTARR funds, originally approved for the ASO Reallocation for Contractual Support, for a contract for increased forensic competency evaluation capacity.

Assigned Program Officer: Kelda Barstad and Travis Welch

STAFF ANALYSIS

Current Project as approved by Trustees
Focus Area: Medicaid Reform and Redesign
Title: ASO Reallocation for Contractual Support
Department/Component: DHSS/SDS
Fund Type/Year: MHTAAR/FY19
Amount: \$262,000

The Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) is requesting a Change of Intent for approved FY19 MHTAAR funding to be used for contractual support related to using a new functional assessment for the waivers administered by Senior and Disabilities Services. Due to unforeseen complications with other large projects, the work plan for functional assessment replacement was moved back six months. While the original intent of the request can no longer be met in FY19, there are new opportunities to act upon that will serve Trust beneficiaries and improve the service system within this timeframe.

It is recommended that two new projects are approved in place of the original project including:

1. Database streamlining - \$100,000

The first project will cost \$100,000 and remain in Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS) to be used to

add the remaining SDS grantees who are using an external database into the SAMS (Social Assistance Management System) database that is used by a majority of SDS grantees. This will reduce grantee administrative burden and improve the quality of reporting and client coordination for SDS. Senior and Disabilities Services serves primarily intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) Trust beneficiary categories and serves all beneficiary types through the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) and Centers for Independent Living (CIL). This project had been tabled with the original assessment project taking precedence. Now that the assessment project has been delayed, the database streamlining project has become a priority. This need has intensified as SDS has developed the Person Centered Intake. The Person Centered Intake is the single entry point into the waiver and personal care services programs. The Short Term Assistance and Referral (STAR) and Aging and Disability Services (ADRC) agencies are the only agencies authorized to conduct these intakes. All of the STAR agencies are in the SAMS system, while the ADRCs have not been fully incorporated. By incorporating the remaining ADRCs, who also are Centers for Independent Living, the process beneficiaries entering the aging and disability services system will be streamlined for beneficiaries. SDS will be able to better serve people receiving grants.

2. Contract for increased forensic competency evaluation capacity - \$150,000

This project will reallocate \$150,000 to the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API) to temporarily increase the existing capacity to conduct forensic competency evaluations. Competency to proceed is a central element of a defendant's right to a fair trial under Alaska statute AS 12.47.100(a)(b). When either party, or the court, has reason to believe that a defendant lacks the capacity to understand the proceedings against him or her or to assist meaningfully in his or her defense, the court must suspend further criminal proceedings until the defendant's competency to stand trial has been determined which begins with a competency evaluation.

In the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital Feasibility Study Phase 1 report it is forecasted that a total of 338 beneficiaries will likely be ordered for competency evaluation during fiscal year 2019 which is an increase from 223 beneficiaries in fiscal year 2016 or an increase of 51 percent over three years. The increasing numbers of beneficiaries being ordered for competency evaluation coupled with a lack of capacity at API has led to a backlog. As of December 2018, the backlog of beneficiaries waiting for a competency evaluation was 35 individuals. It is important to note that this number is a point in time and has increased from year to year as December 2015 saw a backlog of 22 beneficiaries and December 2017 saw a backlog of 25 beneficiaries awaiting competency evaluation. This increasing backlog creates greater delays and increases beneficiary exposure to the criminal justice system.

The purpose of the proposed project is to temporarily increase the capacity of API and the hospital's ability to conduct forensic evaluations. In doing so, beneficiaries who are languishing in this system will be able to undergo the requisite forensic evaluation and have their cases adjudicated or resolved in a timelier manner subsequently reducing their exposure to the criminal justice system and reducing jail time. Staff recommends approving this change of intent.

Staff reviewed these proposals with each advisory board executive director, and they are supportive of

each project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Total amount proposed by SDS for database streamlining: \$100,000

SDS currently uses the SAMS (Social Assistance Management System) to record and report data for most of its grant programs. By using one system, SDS Grants is able to get an unduplicated count of individuals receiving grant services through one or more programs. Many individuals that utilize our programs progress through the continuum of care and may start attending a meal site, then begin getting transportation, some chore, and possibly attend an Adult Day Center or receive legal assistance. Once an individual's needs go beyond what the grants can provide, they might apply for a Medicaid Waiver and go through the ADRC to receive Person Centered Intake and options counseling. Because all of the grant programs use the same system to record consumer and services delivery data in SAMS, an agency can search for an individual and if they have received services their information will be in SAMS.

The only grant program that does not report in SAMS are the Centers for Independent Living, a relatively new program for SDS. The Centers for Independent Living were previously managed by Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and used the MiCil database for their Federal data collection. Three of the four CILs receive other SDS grants and this requires them to do double data entry for individuals who use IL services and one of their other services. The Centers for Independent Living Executive Directors have requested to be able to move their CIL reporting to SAMS, so they will only have to enter data into one system. This will greatly streamline their data entry workload. This improves SDS' capacity to record and track outcomes for individuals across programs and will contribute to breaking down programmatic silos and improve ease of serving individuals through multiple programs. The SAMS database is a proprietary database and contract work can only be completed through a sole source contract. The contract will be executed before the end of this fiscal year. The duration of the contract is anticipated to be four months. Approximately 10,000 records will be transferred as part of the conversion process.

Total amount proposed by DHSS to be re-allocated to API: \$150,000

The State of Alaska operates the Alaska Psychiatric Institute (API), an 80-bed psychiatric hospital, which includes a forensic psychiatric treatment unit. This unit is responsible for conducting forensic competency evaluations. Currently, beneficiaries wait an average of 7.5 weeks to receive an evaluation for competency which has created a fluctuating backlog that has been increasing steadily. Approximately 72 percent of beneficiaries who are involved in the competency process are held in Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities while they wait for a competency evaluation. This prolonged delay in the judicial process causes some beneficiaries to serve more time in jail than what their sentence would have been had they been convicted of a crime.

The backlog and continued delays in Alaska’s forensic competency system is due primarily to API not having the capacity to complete evaluations at a pace that meets demand. If funding is approved it will be used to temporarily increase capacity at API. In order to increase capacity at API DHSS will enter into a standard agreement for professional services to provide as-needed forensic competency evaluations for the amount requested. Increasing API’s forensic capacity will reduce the backlog that currently exists and decrease delays for beneficiaries awaiting a forensic competency evaluation which will ensure less time beneficiaries are subjected to the criminal justice system as well as time incarcerated.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

SDS - Database streamlining:

1. The SAMS database will be prepared for the CILs to complete data entry and produce reports to meet state and federal requirements.

API - Contract for increased forensic competency evaluation capacity

1. The number of forensic competency evaluations to be completed at the beginning of the contract and the number of forensic competency evaluations completed by June 30, 2019.
2. The total number of forensic competency evaluations conducted (duplicated and unduplicated).
3. Time from the court order to time the forensic competency evaluation is complete.
4. Evaluation findings (competent, not competent, but capable of restoration, incompetent to stand trial/non-restorable).

BUDGET	
Contractual Services Amount:	SDS: \$100,000 API: \$150,000
Contractual Services Narrative:	SDS: Contract with IT services to prepare the SAMS database to assume data entry requirements and reporting of the Centers for Independent Living. API: Contract with a psychiatrist to conduct forensic evaluations.
Total Amount to be Funded by the Trust	SDS: \$100,000 API: \$150,000